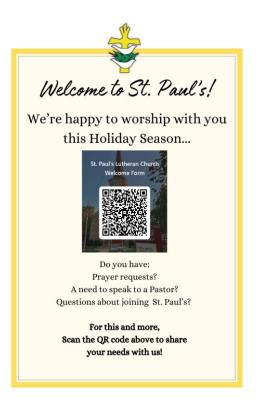
Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 21, 2025 10:00 am St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church Eggertsville Campus Fourth Sunday of Advent December 21, 2025

Musician: Paul Storfer



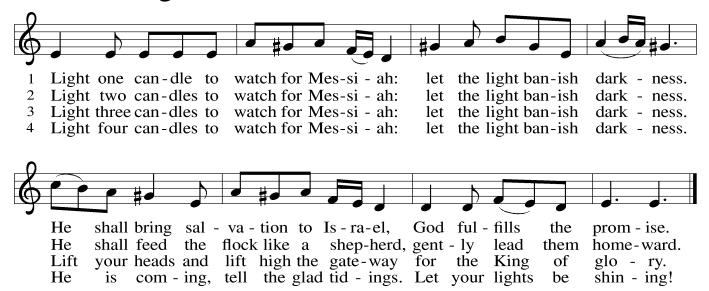


Opening Prayer

P And so, we begin the story all over again, days away from a foretold birth. And waiting. Hoping. Longing. But as we wait, moments of darkness draw closer too. Worries. Doubts. Wondering.

As Christ followers who live on this side of God breaking in, we are given a gift to battle the hardest of times. The light of the world. "A light that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it." In this Advent season, may we allow that light to grow once more. Every week. Every day. Every moment. To see God's longing for us even more clearly. And to watch for the Messiah.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Confession and Forgiveness

(Please stand if you are able.)

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.
- C Amen.
- P Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin. Reconciling God,
- C we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; and our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.
- P God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!
- C Amen.





Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

Apostolic Greeting

- P The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Children's Time

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

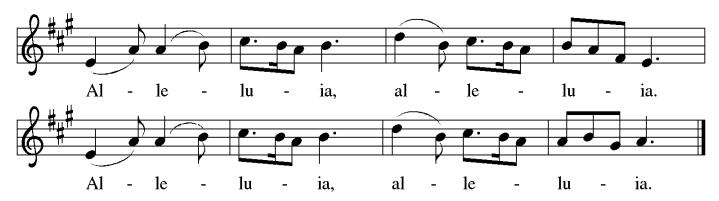
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (read responsively)

- A Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- C In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.
- A Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- C O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
- A You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

- C You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- A Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- C Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.
- A And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- C Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the First Chapter
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just

when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

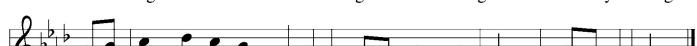


Hymn of the Day: LBW 33

The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit-tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright er than the ris ing morn when Christ, vic to rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright er than that glo rious morn shall dawn up on our race 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



hills and life when beau - ty gilds the east - ern joy to sun that lights the morn-ing sky. but crowned with glo - ry like the lone-some place of death, de-spite the rage of foes. and left the when Christ in splen-dor comes, and we shall see his face. the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick-ly, King of kings. Hail, Christ the

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816

Holy Baptism



Presentation

P In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors present the candidate:

P Sponsors, who do you present for Baptism?

Response: We present Hayes John Siefert for Holy Baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents:

P John and Jennifer, in Christian love you have presented Hayes for Holy Baptism. You should, therefore, faithfully bring him to the services of God's house, and teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Creed. As he grows in years, you should place in his hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for him instruction in the Christian faith, that, living in the covenant of his Baptism and in communion with the Church, he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Do you promise to help Hayes grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

P Courtney and Miles, do you promise to nurture Hayes in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of his baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: We do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

- P People of God, do you promise to support Hayes and pray for him in his new life in Christ?
- C We do.



Thanksgiving

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and you created heaven and earth. By the gift of water you nourish and sustain us and all living things. By the waters of the flood you condemned the wicked and saved those whom you had chosen, Noah and his family. You led Israel by the pillar of cloud and fire through the sea, out of slavery into the freedom of the promised land. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection your beloved Son has set us free from the bondage to sin and death, and has opened the way to the joy and freedom of everlasting life. He made water a sign of the kingdom and of cleansing and rebirth. In obedience to his command, we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Pour out your Holy Spirit, so that Hayes who is here baptized may be given new life. Wash away his sin by this cleansing water and bring him forth as an inheritor of your glorious kingdom. To you be given praise and honor and worship through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen

Renunciation

- P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.
 - Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the powers of the world that rebel against God?
- C I renounce them.
- P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?
- C I renounce them.

Profession

- P Do you believe in God the Father?
- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
- P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
- C I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

- P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
- C I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen



Baptism

P Hayes, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Laying on of Hands

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon Hayes: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C Amen

Signing with the Cross

P Hayes, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen



Giving of the Light

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Welcome

- P Through Baptism, God has made Hayes a new member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and bear his creative and redeeming Word to all the world.
- C Hayes, we welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow missionary in God's church, child of the same heavenly Father, and a worker with us in the kingdom of God. Amen

(Congregation joins in singing: Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me, yes Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.)

Prayers of the Church

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your in love. God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

A Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C Amen.

Ways to Give to St. Paul's:

Options you can use to continue tithing to St. Paul's:

- **In-Person Worship:** Continue to put your envelopes and cash in the plate
- Giving by Mail: Please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's, 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- Online: The St. Paul's website contains a link to Online Giving. The website is: https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/







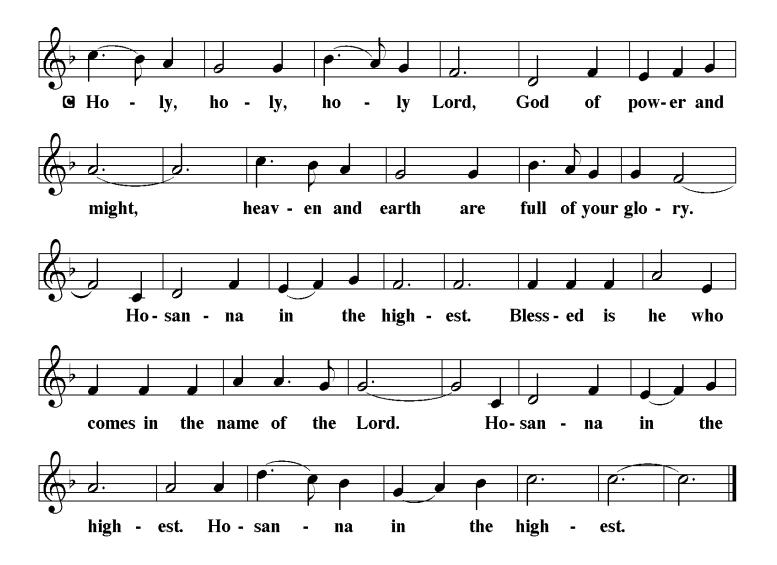
Offering Prayer

- P Let us pray.
- C God of life, you have blessed us with every good gift. Through our offerings today and in our planned giving, open us to share all that we have been given and to love the world in Jesus' name. Amen



Dialogue and Preface

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give God thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all. Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread and the wine, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the Assisting Minister holding the wine. Children are welcome! Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.

Communion Blessing

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

Prayer After Communion

- P God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
- C Amen.

Benediction

- P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...
- C Amen

Closing Hymn: LBW 30

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



- 1 Come, thou long-ex pect-ed Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
- 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee. born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

Sharing the Peace and Sending

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God.



<u>Poinsettias are given</u> to the Glory of the Newborn King....



In Memory of:

Our Loved Ones Jim & Marsha Glose

Jack Miller Sue Miller

Ruth Merrill & Rita Zimmer Mary & Natalie Merrill

Janet & Larry Woodward Michelle & Steve Biegner

John Pilato Betty Pilato

Bud Schumann Gail Singer

Arthur W. Toale Sandra, Amy, Becky, Leo, Emily,

Mya & Sabrina

By:

By:

Dick Elliott Judy, Danielle, Matt, Erin & Tommy

Norm & Eva Carlson Sonja & Paul Rokitka

Bob & Louise Lenz Clophos & Jeanette Bulleigh

Loved Ones Alan & Martha Stewart

Art Toale Lynn & Doug Endres

Paul Converso Marsha Converso

Rich & Helen Heuer Adimey Family

Our Immigrant Ancestry Bob & Shari Rembold

Our Loved Ones Wes & Sharon Ries

In Honor of:

Our Parents Paul & Marsha Converso

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 21-28, 2025

Unless otherwise noted, all activities will take place at the Eggertsville Campus

Sunday: 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at AC

10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV

10:00 am: Worship, Communion, Sunday School and Middle School Sunday School

10:00 am: Baptism of Hayes John Siefert

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Monday: 4:15 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share

5:30-9:00 pm: Straight Pepper Diet Meeting at AC

Tuesday: 10:00 am: **NO** Bible Study today or 12/30/2025

5:00-6:30 pm: We Can No Longer Blame Others (NA)

Wednesday: Christmas Eve: Church Office Closed

10:00 am: Family Christmas Eve Service

6:30-8:30 pm: Ray of Hope Prayer Group at AC

7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service

8:00 pm: AA Meeting

Thursday: Christmas Day: Church Office Closed

Friday: Church Office Closed

Saturday: 9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at AC

Sunday: 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at AC

10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV 10:00 am: Worship and Communion (Lessons and Carols)

1:00 pm: Ray of Hope at AC

Deacons: 12/21: Martin Troutman; 12/24: Barbara Walter; 12/28: Nancy Bartels-Holiman

Ushers: 12/21: Mimi & Scott Fierle; 12/28: Gerri Horton & Helen Gibson

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Carol Geis; Eileen Knauth; Tammy Thomas; David Wieczorek; Joyce Chace; Elaine Masman; Lavon Amos; Cindy Milazzo Schwartz; David

Schunak; Sylvia McLaughlin; Sue Epstein

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (* indicates new names or changes added this week)

Joyce Chace: Brookdale, 6076 Main Street, Williamsville, NY 14221

Neal DeLeo: Greenfield Manor, #D127, 5958 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086

John Hornung: Brothers of Mercy, 10570 Bergtold Road, Clarence, NY 14031

Jan Isaacs: 6 Bush Gardens, Three Rod Road, Alden, NY 14004

Joan Maefs: Solstice, 6363 Transit Road, #136, East Amherst, NY 14051

Elaine Masman: Heathwood Assisted Living, 815 Hopkins, Room 251, Williamsville, NY 14221

Wilma Nantka: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #238, Williamsville, NY 14221 Charles Scofield: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #228, Williamsville, NY 14221

Ira Striejewske: 48 Cornell Avenue, Eggertsville, NY 14226

David Wolf: Solstice, 6363 Transit Road, #244, East Amherst, NY 14051

PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: St. Paul's has two in-person worship services: Saturday evening at 5:00 pm at the Amherst Campus, 5125 Main Street, Williamsville, 14221, and Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Eggertsville Campus, 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, 14226. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

Church Unleashed: If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

Prayer Team Ministry: Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Cody at: Cody@stpaulseggertsville.com

Daily Bread Food Truck: The 2025 Monday Meal Share is underway each Monday from 4:15-5:15 pm. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, contact the office at 716-835-0407 or dailybread 4007@gmail.com.

NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226, is associated with St. Paul's Amherst Campus, or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for December are: Saturday 12/27 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for December: spaghetti sauce, crackers, and granola bars.



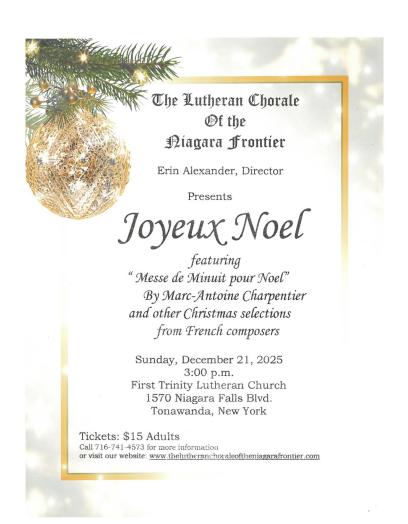
*All Christmas Services will end in candlelight *

*Wednesday, December 24 at 10:00 am

Family Christmas Eve Service featuring special music and extended Children's Time

*Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 pm

Traditional Christmas Eve Service





+ St. Paul's Mission + To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives, and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.

St. Paul's Congregation Council

President: Robert Simpson
Vice-President: Tim Johnson
Treasurer: William Niblock
Secretary: Janet Schmidt
Bob Brown David Dahlberg Susan Epstein

Sara Hannon Vanessa Solomon Scott Vahue Barbara Walter

Pastoral Leaders

Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com Kristen Arends: (716-481-8728 - cell); Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com

<u>Directors of Music</u>: Paul H. Storfer (SPEC) and Adam Schmidt (AC)

<u>Christian Education Coordinator</u>: June Piette; Email: scs@stpaulseggertsville.com

<u>Youth Ministry</u>: Jordan Dywan; Email: youth@stpaulseggertsville.com

<u>Digital Ministry</u>: Andrew Gruszka

<u>Facilities Manager</u>: Jeff Stein

Church Office Staff

Cody Almeter and Adrienne Leary E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.com Telephone: (716) 835-0407 Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com

St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus 4007 Main Street Eggertsville, NY 14226 St. Paul's Amherst Campus 5125 Main Street Williamsville, NY 14221